

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, UK

SUBJECT: ZANU NO LONGER TO RECOGNIZE UN AS ADMINISTERING POWER
IN RHODESIA

1. ZIMBABWE NEWS, ORGAN OF ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL
UNION (ZANU), HAS APPEARED WITH EDITORIAL ANNOUNCING
THAT ZANU WILL NO LONGER RECOGNIZE UK AS ADMINISTERING
POWER OF RHODESIA. ACCORDING EDITORIAL, UK LOST
CONTROL OF RHODESIA IN 1965 WHEN IT FAILED TO CRUSH
SMITH'S UDI. UK HAS THEREFORE FORFEITED ITS RIGHT
TO DECIDE ON FUTURE OF AFRICANS IN ZIMBABWE. ZANU
REJECTS SUGGESTION THAT UK TRY AGAIN TO ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY BY INITIATING CONSTITUTIONAL CON-
FERENCE, STATING ZANU WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH MOVE.
EDITORIAL ADDS THAT SETTLEMENT ALONG MOZAMBIQUE
LINES IS NOT POSSIBLE IN RHODESIA BECAUSE OF
NATURE OF POLITICAL CONTROL WHITE SETTLERS HAVE
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IN TERRITORY. CONSEQUENTLY, AFRICAN PEOPLE MUST

LOOK TO THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVE FEDERATION.

2. ZANU REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TOLD US THEIR MOVEMENT WOULD CATEGORICALLY REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENT UK ATTEMPTED TO CONVENE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. SMITH REGIME MUST BE COMPELLED TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY BY FORCE OF ARMS. ZANU REPS WERE VAGUE AS TO EXACTLY WHAT SCENARIO THEY EXPECT WILL DEVELOP AS CONSEQUENCE THEIR CONTINUED MILITARY ATTACKS ON RHODESIAN TARGETS. THEY FINESSED QUESTION ABOUT CLEAR CONTRAST BETWEEN THEIR POSITION AND THAT OF GRZ WHICH CONTINUING TO CALL PUBLICLY UPON HMG TO CONVENE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RHODESIA, COMMENTING MERELY THAT "THIS IS WHAT UN MEMBERS SAY."

3. COMMENT: WITH EXPECTATIONS ARISING ABOUT SMITH REGIME BEING OBLIGED BY RECENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS TO TRY FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ZANU STATEMENT LOOKS TO US LIKE AN INDIRECT PREPARATORY EFFORT TO UNDERCUT MODERATE ANC WHICH MORE RADICAL ZANU APPARENTLY FEARS WOULD HAVE FAVOR OF UK AS WELL AS OF RHODESIAN WHITES IN ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. ZANU STATEMENT CONFLICTS WITH ZAMBIAN POSITION (MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY FONMIN MWAANGA IN LONDON ON OCT 3 -- LONDON'S (12987) THAT UK HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONVENE URGENTLY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RHODESIA. WE DOUBT THAT ZANU EXPECTS GRZ TO DROP ITS INSISTENCE UPON UK LIVING UPTO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES OR THAT UK CAN BE ELIMINATED FROM NEGOTIATIONS ON RHODESIA'S FUTURE. BY ITS STAND, HOWEVER, ZANU MAY HOPE TO PRESSURE RIVAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT ZAPU TO TAKE SAME LINE, ISOLATE ANC, AND SECURE FROM UK RECOGNITION THAT ZANU MUST PLAY LEADING PART IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH.

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